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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/705,263	11/10/2003	Michael K. Brann	100041-41178	3204
27805 7590 THOMPSON HINE L.L.P. Intellectual Property Group P.O. BOX 8801 DAYTON, OH 45401-8801			EXAMINER GATES, ERIC ANDREW	
			ART UNIT 3722	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/705,263		BRANN, MICHAEL K.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Eric A. Gates		3722	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 June 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14, 16-25, 28-30, 32, 33, 35, 36, 38-41, 43-49, 51 and 52 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14, 16-25, 28-30, 32, 33, 35, 36, 38-41, 43-49, 51 and 52 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The indicated allowability of claims 4, 12, 14, 19, 20, and 44-46 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Smith '149. Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-11, 16-18, 21, 32, 33, 40, 41, 46, and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ferranti et al. (U.S. Design Patent 341,374) in view of Smith (U.S. Patent 5,120,149).

5. Regarding claims 1 and 4, Ferranti et al. discloses a binder comprising: a spine (not labeled, see figure 1) having a first edge (right side in figure 2) and a second edge (left side in figure 2); a front cover (not labeled, right side in figure 2) pivotally coupled to said first edge of said spine; a rear cover (not labeled, left side in figure 2) pivotally coupled to said second edge of said spine, wherein said front cover is directly or indirectly attachable to said rear cover to form a self-supporting binder (see figures 1

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and 2); and a binding mechanism (not labeled, see figure 1) fixedly and non-rotatably coupled to said spine, wherein said spine is a generally longitudinal panel and has a lateral width.

Ferranti et al. does not disclose wherein said binding mechanism is coupled to said spine in an off-center manner such that said binding mechanism is located closer to one of said edges than the other one of said edges, or wherein said binding mechanism is not centered along said lateral width. Smith teaches the use of a binder 2 which utilizes a three-ring binding mechanism 12 for the purpose of binding papers that are punched with three holes, said binding mechanism 12 attached to a spine portion 8 in an off-center manner (see figure 3) using hook 27 and loop 28 fastening material for the purpose of allowing the binding mechanism to be replaced with another binding mechanism in the binder. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was disclosed to have combined the binder of Ferranti et al. with the binding mechanism of Smith in order to have a binding mechanism removably coupled to the spine in an off-center manner.

6. Regarding claim 2, the modified invention of Ferranti et al. discloses wherein said spine and said covers are generally flat, planar components and are generally rectangular in front view (see figure 1).

7. Regarding claim 3, the modified invention of Ferranti et al. discloses wherein said first and second edges are located on opposite sides of said spine (see figure 2).

8. Regarding claim 5, the modified invention of Ferranti et al. discloses wherein said binder is movable between a closed position (figure 6), wherein said front and rear

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covers are generally parallel and facing each other and said binding mechanism is generally located between said front and rear covers, and a display position (figure 2) wherein said front cover is directly or indirectly attached to said rear cover to form a self-supporting binder and said binding mechanism is not generally located between said front and rear covers (as shown in figure 2).

9. Regarding claim 6, the modified invention of Ferranti et al. discloses wherein said binder has a generally closed generally triangular shape in end view when said binder is in said display position (as seen in figure 2).

10. Regarding claim 7, the modified invention of Ferranti et al. discloses closure means located on said front and rear covers for retaining said binder in said closed position (see figures 1-5).

11. Regarding claim 8, the modified invention of Ferranti et al. discloses wherein said rear cover includes an extension flap that is releasably attachable to said front cover when said front cover is directly or indirectly attached to said rear cover (see figures 1-5).

12. Regarding claim 9, the modified invention of Ferranti et al. discloses wherein said extension flap is pivotally coupled to a main portion of said rear cover (see figures 4 and 5).

13. Regarding claim 10, the modified invention of Ferranti et al. discloses further comprising attachment means located on said extension flap and on said front cover, wherein said attachment means can be operated to releasably attach said extension flap to said front cover (see figures 4 and 5).

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14. Regarding claim 11, the modified invention of Ferranti et al. discloses wherein said part of said attachment means located on said front cover is located on an inner surface of said front cover (see figure 5).

15. Regarding claim 16, the modified invention of Ferranti et al. discloses wherein said spine includes a longitudinal centerline and said binding mechanism includes a longitudinal centerline which is generally not aligned with said longitudinal centerline of said spine (as modified in claim 1 above).

16. Regarding claim 17, Ferranti et al. discloses wherein said binding mechanism is located generally adjacent to said one of said edges such that a display sheet bound in said binding mechanism and lies over one of said edges of said spine and lies generally flat and parallel with one of said front or rear covers when said binder is in a display position (as modified in claim 1) wherein said front cover is directly or indirectly attached to said rear cover to form a self-supporting binder (see figure 2).

17. Regarding claim 18, the modified invention of Ferranti et al. discloses wherein said binder is configured such that when said front cover is directly or indirectly attached to said rear cover to form a self-supporting binder, said binding mechanism extends generally horizontally (see figure 2).

18. Regarding claim 21, the modified invention of Ferranti et al. discloses further comprising a plurality of sheets bound by said binding mechanism (see figure 4).

19. Regarding claim 32, the modified invention of Ferranti et al. discloses wherein at least one of said front or rear cover includes attachment means that can be operated to couple front and rear covers to form said self-supporting binder.

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20. Regarding claim 33, the modified invention of Ferranti et al. discloses wherein said attachment means is located on both said front and rear covers (see figures 4 and 5).

21. Regarding claim 40, the modified invention of Ferranti et al. discloses wherein said binding mechanism is positioned relative to said spine when said binder is in said closed position, and wherein said binding mechanism is in the same position relative to said spine when said binder is in said display position.

22. Regarding claim 41, the modified invention of Ferranti et al. discloses wherein said spine is generally flat and planar (see figure 1), and wherein said front cover is directly pivotally coupled to said first edge, and said rear cover is directly pivotally coupled to said second edge, and wherein said generally planar spine is aligned in a plane that is generally parallel to an underlying support surface when the binder is in said self-supporting configuration (see figure 2).

23. Regarding claim 46, the modified invention of Ferranti et al. discloses wherein when said front cover is directly or indirectly attached to said rear cover to form said self-supporting binder and said binder is positioned on a support surface said binder is in a self-supporting configuration wherein said binder has a generally triangular shape in end view (see figure 2), and wherein said binding mechanism is located closer to one of said edges of said spine than the other one of said edges when said binder is in said self supporting configuration such that papers bound to said binding mechanism can lie against one of said covers in a generally fiat manner substantially without any creases in said pages caused by lying over a junction of said spine and said one of said covers

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(as modified in claim 1 above), and wherein said generally planar spine is aligned in a plane that is generally parallel to said support surface when the binder is in said self-supporting configuration (see figure 2).

24. Regarding claim 47, the modified invention of Ferranti et al. discloses wherein said binding mechanism is directly coupled to said spine and is not directly coupled to said front cover or to said rear cover (see figure 1).

25. Claims 24, 35, 36, 48, 49, and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ferranti et al. (U.S. Design Patent 341,374) in view of Smith (U.S. Patent 5,120,149).

26. Regarding claim 24, Ferranti et al. discloses a binder comprising: a spine (not labeled, see figure 1) having a longitudinal centerline; a front cover (not labeled, right side in figure 2) pivotally coupled to said spine; a rear cover (not labeled, left side in figure 2) pivotally coupled to said spine, wherein said front cover is directly or indirectly attachable to said rear cover to form a self-supporting binder (see figure 2); and a binding mechanism (not labeled, see figure 1) fixedly and non-rotatably and directly coupled to said spine and having a longitudinal centerline, wherein when said front cover is directly or indirectly attached to said rear cover to form said self-supporting binder and said binder is positioned on a support surface said binder is in a self-supporting configuration wherein said binder has a generally triangular shape in end view (see figure 2), and wherein said generally planar spine is aligned in a plane that is

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generally parallel to said support surface when the binder is in said self-supporting configuration (see figure 2).

Ferranti et al. does not disclose wherein said binding mechanism is coupled to said spine in an off-center manner such that said longitudinal centerline of said binding mechanism is generally not aligned with said longitudinal centerline of said spine, or wherein said binding mechanism is located closer to one of said edges of said spine than the other one of said edges when said binder is in said self-supporting configuration such that papers bound to said binding mechanism can lie against one of said covers in a generally flat manner substantially without any creases in said pages caused by lying over a junction of said spine and said one of said covers. Smith teaches the use of a binder 2 which utilizes a three-ring binding mechanism 12 for the purpose of binding papers that are punched with three holes, said binding mechanism 12 attached to a spine portion 8 in an off-center manner (see figure 3) using hook 27 and loop 28 fastening material for the purpose of allowing the binding mechanism to be replaced with another binding mechanism in the binder. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was disclosed to have combined the binder of Ferranti et al. with the binding mechanism of Smith in order to have a binding mechanism removably coupled to the spine in an off-center manner.

27. Regarding claim 35, Ferranti et al. discloses wherein at least one of said front or rear cover includes attachment means that can be operated to couple front and rear covers to form said self-supporting binder (see figure 5).

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28. Regarding claim 36, Ferranti et al. discloses wherein said attachment means is located on both said front and rear covers (see figure 5).

29. Regarding claim 48, Ferranti et al. discloses wherein said binding mechanism is directly coupled to said spine and is not directly coupled to said front cover or to said rear cover (see figure 2).

30. Regarding claim 49, Ferranti et al. discloses wherein said binder is movable between a closed position (figure 6), wherein said front and rear covers are generally parallel and facing each other and said binding mechanism is generally located between said front and rear covers, and a display position (figure 2) wherein said front cover is directly or indirectly attached to said rear cover to form a self-supporting binder and said binding mechanism is not generally located between said front and rear covers, and wherein said binder has a generally closed generally triangular shape in end view when said binder is in said display position, and wherein said binding mechanism is positioned relative to said spine when said binder is in said closed position, and wherein said binding mechanism is in the same position relative to said spine when said binder is in said display position.

31. Regarding claim 51, Ferranti et al. discloses wherein said spine has a first longitudinal edge (right side in figure 2) and a second longitudinal edge (left side in figure 2), wherein said front cover is pivotally coupled to said first edge and said rear cover is pivotally coupled to said second edge, and wherein said binding mechanism is permanently positioned between said first and second edges of said spine.

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32. Claims 25, 28-30, 38, 39, 43, and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ferranti et al. (U.S. Design Patent 341,374) in view of Smith (U.S. Patent 5,120,149).

33. Regarding claim 25, Ferranti et al. discloses a method for manipulating a binder comprising: providing a binder having a spine (not labeled, see figure 1) having a first edge (right side in figure 2) and a second edge (left side in figure 2), a front cover (not labeled, right side in figure 2) pivotally coupled to said first edge of said spine, a rear cover (not labeled, left side in figure 2) pivotally coupled to said second edge of said spine, and a binding mechanism (not labeled, see figure 1) coupled to said spine; and directly or indirectly attaching said front cover to said rear cover to form a self-supporting binder (see figure 1), wherein said attaching step includes moving said binder from a closed position (see figure 6), wherein said front and rear covers are generally parallel and facing each other and said binding mechanism is generally located between said front and rear covers, to a display position (see figure 2) wherein said front cover is directly or indirectly attached to said rear cover to form a self-supporting binder and said binding mechanism is not generally located between said front and rear covers, and wherein said binder has a generally closed generally triangular shape in end view when in said display position, and wherein said binding mechanism is positioned relative to said spine when said binder is in said closed position, and wherein said binding mechanism is in the same position relative to said spine when said binder is in said display position, wherein after said attaching step said binder is positioned on a support surface (see figure 2) said binder is in a self-

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supporting configuration wherein said binder has a generally triangular shape in end view, and wherein said generally planar spine is aligned in a plane that is generally parallel to said support surface when the binder is in said self-supporting configuration.

Ferranti et al. does not disclose wherein said binding mechanism is coupled to said spine in an off-center manner such that said longitudinal centerline of said binding mechanism is generally not aligned with said longitudinal centerline of said spine, or wherein said binding mechanism is located closer to one of said edges of said spine than the other one of said edges when said binder is in said self-supporting configuration such that papers can lie against one of said covers in a generally flat manner substantially without any creases in said pages caused by lying over a junction of said spine and said one of said covers. Smith teaches the use of a binder 2 which utilizes a three-ring binding mechanism 12 for the purpose of binding papers that are punched with three holes, said binding mechanism 12 attached to a spine portion 8 in an off-center manner (see figure 3) using hook 27 and loop 28 fastening material for the purpose of allowing the binding mechanism to be replaced with another binding mechanism in the binder. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was disclosed to have combined the binder of Ferranti et al. with the binding mechanism of Smith in order to have a binding mechanism removably coupled to the spine in an off-center manner.

34. Regarding claim 28, Ferranti et al. discloses wherein said binding mechanism extends generally horizontally when said binder is in said display position (see figure 2).

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35. Regarding claim 29, Ferranti et al. discloses wherein said spine includes a longitudinal centerline and said binding mechanism includes a longitudinal centerline which is generally not aligned with said longitudinal centerline of said spine (as modified in claim 25 above).

36. Regarding claim 30, Ferranti et al. discloses further comprising the steps of binding a plurality of pages together by said binding mechanism (see figure 5), and displaying said pages such that said pages lie over one of said edges of said spine and lie against said front cover in a generally flat manner substantially without any creases in said pages caused by lying over a junction of said spine and one of said covers (as modified in claim 25 above).

37. Regarding claim 38, Ferranti et al. discloses wherein at least one of said front or rear cover includes attachment means that can be operated to couple front and rear covers to form said self-supporting binder.

38. Regarding claim 39, Ferranti et al. discloses wherein said attachment means is located on both said front and rear covers (see figure 5).

39. Regarding claim 43, Ferranti et al. discloses wherein said spine is generally flat and planar, and wherein said front cover is directly pivotally coupled to said first edge, and said rear cover is directly pivotally coupled to said second edge, and wherein said generally planar spine is aligned in a plane that is generally parallel to said support surface when the binder is in said self-supporting configuration (see figure 2).

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40. Regarding claim 52 Ferranti et al. discloses wherein said binding mechanism is directly coupled to said spine and is not directly coupled to said front cover or to said rear cover (see figure 2).

41. Claims 44 and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ferranti et al. (U.S. Design Patent 341,374) in view of Smith (U.S. Patent 5,120,149).

42. Regarding claim 44, Ferranti et al. discloses a binder comprising: a generally fiat, planar spine (not labeled, see figure 1) having a first edge (right side in figure 2) and a second edge (left side in figure 2); a front cover (not labeled, right side in figure 2) pivotally and directly coupled to said first edge of said spine; a rear cover (not labeled, left side in figure 2) pivotally and directly coupled to said second edge of said spine, wherein said front cover is directly or indirectly attachable to said rear cover to move said binder into a self-supporting configuration wherein said binder has a generally triangular shape in end view and rests upon a support surface (see figure 2); and a binding mechanism (not labeled, see figure 1) coupled to said spine, and wherein said generally planar spine is aligned in a plane that is generally parallel to said support surface when the binder is in said self-supporting configuration.

Ferranti et al. does not disclose wherein said binding mechanism is coupled to said spine in an off-center manner such that said binding mechanism is located closer to one of said edges of said spine than the other one of said edges when said binder is in said self-supporting configuration such that papers can lie against one of said covers

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in a generally flat manner substantially without any creases in said pages caused by lying over a junction of said spine and said one of said covers. Smith teaches the use of a binder 2 which utilizes a three-ring binding mechanism 12 for the purpose of binding papers that are punched with three holes, said binding mechanism 12 attached to a spine portion 8 in an off-center manner (see figure 3) using hook 27 and loop 28 fastening material for the purpose of allowing the binding mechanism to be replaced with another binding mechanism in the binder. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was disclosed to have combined the binder of Ferranti et al. with the binding mechanism of Smith in order to have a binding mechanism removably coupled to the spine in an off-center manner.

43. Regarding claim 45, the modified invention of Ferranti et al. discloses wherein said binding mechanism is fixedly and non-rotatably coupled to said spine

44. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ferranti et al. in view of Smith and further in view of Klein (U.S. Patent 1,237,912).

45. Regarding claim 12, the modified invention of Ferranti et al. discloses the invention substantially as claimed, except Ferranti et al. does not disclose wherein said extension flap is releasably attachable to an inner surface of said rear cover.

Klein teaches the use of a binder including an extension flap 11 that is releasably attachable to an inner surface of a rear cover 1 using a button 14 for the purpose of keeping the extension flap out of the way when not in use. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made

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to have combined the binder of Ferranti et al. with the button of Klein in order to have an extension flap that may be safely locked against the back cover of the binder when not in use.

46. Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ferranti et al. in view of Smith and Klein and further in view of Wyant (U.S. Patent 5,375,883).

47. Regarding claim 13, the modified invention of Ferranti et al. discloses the invention substantially as claimed, except Ferranti et al. does not disclose further including a pocket located on an inner surface of said rear cover.

Wyant teaches the use of a binder 10 that includes a pocket 12 on the inner surface 36 of the rear cover 34 for the purpose of retaining a wallet 16 with a calculator 14. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the binder of Ferranti et al. with the pocket of Wyant in order to have binder that can be used for holding additional items as desired.

48. Regarding claim 14, the modified invention of Ferranti et al. discloses the invention substantially as claimed, except Ferranti et al. does not disclose wherein said extension flap is configured such that said extension flap generally covers said pocket when said extension flap is releasably attached to said rear cover. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have placed the extension flap wherever it was desired on the rear cover for

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the purpose of design choice, since it has been held that rearranging parts of an invention involves only routine skill in the art.

49. Claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ferranti et al. in view of Smith and further in view of Moore (U.S. Patent 940,345).

50. Regarding claim 19, the modified invention of Ferranti et al. discloses the invention substantially as claimed, except Ferranti et al. does not disclose wherein one of said front or rear covers includes a plurality of openings to receive the outer edge of said binding mechanism therethrough.

Moore teaches the use of a plurality of openings 24 that are used for the purpose of allowing binding mechanisms 15 to extend therethrough so that the cover can close more completely. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the binder of Ferranti et al. with the openings of Moore in order to have a binder with a cover that confines the bound sheets of paper more tightly.

51. Regarding claim 20, the modified invention of Ferranti et al. discloses the invention substantially as claimed, except Ferranti et al. does not disclose wherein each of said openings has a grommet extending around its perimeter.

Moore teaches the use of grommets 25 for the purpose of reinforcing the openings 24. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the binder of Ferranti et al. with the grommets of Moore in order to protect the binding mechanism openings.

52. Claims 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ferranti et al. in view of Smith and further in view of Pell et al. (U.S. Patent 5,494,366).

53. Regarding claim 22, the modified invention of Ferranti et al. discloses wherein said binder is movable to a closed position (see figure 6), wherein said front and rear covers are generally parallel and facing each other and said binding mechanism is generally located between said front and rear covers. Ferranti et al. does not disclose wherein said binder includes closure means for retaining said binder in said closed position.

Pell et al. teaches the use of a binder 10 with a closure assembly 60 located on front 12 and rear 24 covers for the purpose of maintaining the binder in a closed position. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the binder of Ferranti et al. with the closure means of Pell et al. in order to have a binder that can be locked in a closed position.

54. Regarding claim 23, the modified invention Ferranti et al. discloses wherein each cover includes an inner edge and an outer edge, each inner edge being coupled to said spine and said outer edge being located generally opposite the associated inner edge (see figure 2), and wherein said closure means (as modified by Pell et al. from claim 22) are located generally adjacent to said outer edges (see figure 1 of Pell et al.).

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric A. Gates whose telephone number is (571) 272-5498. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 8:45 - 6:15.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Monica Carter can be reached on (571) 272-4475. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



EAG
31 August 2007


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